

**Opening Statement of the Honorable John Shimkus
Subcommittee on Energy and Power and Subcommittee on
Environment and the Economy
Hearing on “The Fiscal Year 2015 EPA Budget”
April 2, 2014**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Welcome, Administrator McCarthy, and thank you for appearing today. I plan to focus my comments and later my questions on programs within my subcommittee's jurisdiction. Your authorities under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Solid Waste Disposal Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), and Superfund all come under the Environment and the Economy Subcommittee. These programs touch the lives of almost everyone in the United States.

On several issues EPA and our subcommittee have worked together closely and successfully on a bipartisan basis to solve problems. For example, with your support we enacted E-manifest in October 2012, to set up an electronic reporting program for hazardous materials under RCRA. Once we got consensus around the basic policy, we had to negotiate the complex thickets of budget rules, but we finally got it through the House and Senate and to the President for his signature. We are looking for a good progress report on E-manifest today.

In another example, on drinking water, we worked with you at the end of last year to solve the problem you identified involving fire hydrants. In record time we were able to agree on the scope of the issue, draft legislation, and move it through Congress to the President's desk. As a result, water system managers and firefighters across America never had to face a terrible dilemma: whether or not to keep a fire hydrant out of service just to comply with a restriction that none of us intended to impose.

So with those two solutions under our belts, let's turn together to TSCA reform. Just in the last 10 months, I've convened six hearings on TSCA and in February we released a discussion draft of a modernization bill. We've gotten comments from a wide range of stakeholders. EPA has given us some valuable, but preliminary technical assistance, but many large policy issues still need resolution. We want to resolve those with you, and we hope you share our ambition and sincere desire to make this a collaborative process.

Our Founding Fathers never said it would be easy getting agreement among the President and a majority of the House and of the Senate. But that's no reason to not try. We look forward to working closely with you on these and other issues to protect our citizens' health and their way of life.

###